



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dignitaries to Break Ground on the Date Palm Drive Interchange Improvement Project

Fourth I-10 Corridor Project Means More Jobs, Less Congestion and Cleaner Air

Riverside County – On May 13, 2011, Riverside County, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and Cathedral City will celebrate the start of construction on the Date Palm Drive Interchange Improvement Project on Interstate 10. Riverside County awarded the \$14.8 million project to SEMA Construction, Inc. of Lake Forest, California.

“With borders on both sides of I-10, Cathedral City is strategically located for economic opportunity. This project will bring badly needed jobs now and help us accommodate future growth by updating our infrastructure,” said Mayor Kathleen De Rosa.

The project will widen the existing Date Palm Drive overcrossing on each side to provide a six-lane overcrossing that includes bike lanes in both directions. Other improvements include new loop on-ramps from northbound Date Palm Drive to westbound I-10 and from southbound Date Palm Drive to eastbound I-10. The remaining ramps will be realigned with two lanes, which will reduce congestion and help improve air quality.



The Date Palm Drive project is one of six interchange projects on I-10 in the Coachella Valley. The Ramon Road/Bob Hope Drive Interchange, the Palm Drive/Gene Autry Trail Interchange and the Indian Canyon Interchange projects all started construction in 2010. The Monterey Avenue Interchange project is expected to begin later this year and the Jefferson Avenue Interchange project is slated to start in late 2014 or early 2015.

“I know first-hand how important these projects are to the Coachella Valley. I patrolled the I-10 corridor as a Highway Patrol Commander for years and then worked in the State Legislature to fund transportation projects,” said Fourth District Supervisor John J. Benoit. “Now they are more necessary than ever and well-timed to produce jobs in our community.”

Caltrans District 8 Director Ray Wolfe said local and regional partnerships made the projects possible, “It’s exciting to see the transformation along I-10. It’s a testimony to the benefits of local, regional and state agencies working together to plan, fund and build a better transportation system and a brighter future.”

The Date Palm Drive Interchange Improvement Project Groundbreaking will be held Friday, May 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. on the northeast side of the interchange. Elected officials expected to attend include State Senator Juan Vargas, Assembly Member Manuel Perez, Riverside County Supervisor John J. Benoit, Riverside County Transportation Commission Chairman Greg Pettis and Cathedral City Mayor Kathleen De Rosa. Tom Kirk, the Executive Director of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and Hector Davila, Caltrans District 8 Deputy Director of Construction will also be speaking.

The I-10 projects are being overseen by the Coachella Valley Corridor Improvement Projects Taskforce, a coalition including CVAG, the County of Riverside, Caltrans, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the desert cities in eastern Riverside County. Please visit www.i10cvcprojects.com or call 888-863-1757 for project information and commuter alerts.

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